

# Green Matters

DPW, Environmental Natural Resources Division Newsletter

~Fort Gordon, Ga.



## Upcoming Events/ Training

Sept 3 Hazardous Waste Refresher, 0900-1200- Bldg 11307

Sept 17 SPCC Training, 0900-1200- Bldg 11307

Sept 18 Stormwater Industrial Training, 0900-1300- Bldg 11307

Oct 1 Hazardous Waste Refresher, 0830;0945—Bldg 11307

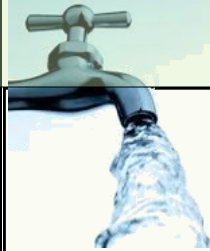
Oct 8-9 Hazardous Waste Management Course, 0800-1600- Bldg 11307

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## Fort Gordon's Water Supply



Whether we are outside enduring the scorching heat at work or simply enjoying the great outdoors, a guarantee is that water is somewhere within our reach. Quenching our thirst or washing the daily grime off, water is a necessity. Without it, life would cease to exist. I think we often take it for granted, expecting the water to gush from the faucet every time we turn the knob. How often do we stop and think about what is involved in delivering the water from rivers and streams to our sinks and baths? Do we think about how our actions as stewards of the environment affect the quality of the water that we drink? What we do to our environment here in the CSRA will definitely impact the quality of our drinking water here at Fort Gordon.

Fort Gordon's drinking water system is owned, operated, and maintained by the County of Augusta-Richmond, Augusta Utilities Department. The Fort's water is derived from two sources and treated at three off post County treatment facilities: the Highland Avenue Plant (Savannah River via Augusta Canal), Hicks Plant (Savannah River direct), and a Groundwater Well system (Crustaceous aquifer).

Typically, water from the three treatment plants is fed directly to the two 1.25 MG water towers located on the post, one near Gate 3 and the other near Gate 5. The water is continuously released from the water towers to the Fort Gordon community for consumption. Although Fort Gordon's average daily demand is 2.2 MGD (million gallons per day), the County is capable of delivering 12.5 MGD if needed.



Let's follow a drop of water from the source through the treatment process. X There are 5 basic steps in the water treatment process, and water may be treated differently in different communities depending on the quality of water in the beginning.

1. COAGULATION- process of removing dirt and particles suspended in water. Alum and other chemicals are added to water to form "floc", tiny sticky particles that attract the suspended particles and dirt. The floc then settles to the bottom during sedimentation.
2. SEDIMENTATION- heavy particles settle to the bottom and the clear water moves to filtration.
3. FILTRATION- the clear water is then filtered again to remove even finer particles.
4. DISINFECTION- small amounts of chlorine is added to water or other disinfection methods to kill bacteria or other microorganisms that could be in the water.
5. STORAGE- the water must be stored in tanks or reservoir for disinfection to take place. From here the water flows to the community for consumption.

For more information on what we can do as a consumers to help protect our water supply and protect human health visit <http://water.epa.gov/action/>.

## Hunting Seasons on Fort Gordon

- ⇒ **DOVE SEASON**-Sept. 6-22 / Oct 12-20/Nov 28-Jan 11 in TA 23 & 28
- ⇒ **DEER**- Archery **ONLY**-Sept. 14-Jan 15
- ⇒ **DEER**- Muzzle loader-Oct 12-Jan 15
- ⇒ **DEER**- All weapons- Oct 19-Jan 15

You must have a Georgia State hunting license and a Fort Gordon hunting license to hunt on Fort Gordon.

Fort Gordon licenses are available at the Tactical Advantage Sportsman Range (Range 14) on North Carter Road.

Information is also available at the sign in board on 111th street.

For more details on management zones, bag limits, and other restrictions please contact , Natural Resources Division, Steve Camp 706-791-6135 or Mike Juhan 706-791-2397.



## Recycle That Hose!

The old saying that "you get what you pay for" is true. Every spring I plant a garden, and I purchase the cheapest hose pipe I can find. Well, needless to say, it barely makes it through the summer before it has holes in it - but fear not, it still can be of good use . Before you chunk it, reconsider what it can be reused for. You can reuse hosepipes for a variety of things that you would probably never think about....for instance,

- ⇒ They are great visual aides when trying to lay out the form for a flower bed. They can be contorted to fit any design.
- ⇒ Use it to cushion a wire bucket handle. Slit the hose and slip it over the wire for instant comfort when carrying a bucket.
- ⇒ They make great blade protectors for saw blades. Cut the hose the length of the blade, slit and slip on .
- ⇒ Slip swing chains through the hose to protect little fingers from getting pinched.
- ⇒ Make a play phone for the kids. Fit funnels to each end and let the kids chat away.
- ⇒ Use them as a soaker or drip watering system by poking holes in them.



For more ideas on repurposing your garden hose, visit <http://bestplants.com/uses-for-old-garden-hoses/>.

# Recycle Your Textiles

When you think about recycling, you probably think about plastics, paper, glass, and aluminum cans. But what about your clothes? Yes, textiles can be recycled. From the shirt on your back, to the belt around your waist, to the shoes on your feet—these items can be recycled and help reduce the amount of waste that goes into our landfills. As Americans, we toss 3.8 billion tons a year of clothing into the garbage according to the EPA! Only 15 percent recycle or donate used clothing. Textiles rank at the bottom when it comes to recycling rates. Clothing and household textiles make up 5.2% of our waste stream. Even if the clothing is damaged and not fit to be worn again, it can be converted into other useful products such as rags, paper, yarn insulation and padding for carpets. Here are some benefits to recycling your clothes:

- Less “trash” in the landfills
- Less pollution from using incinerators
- Provides affordable clothing to low income families worldwide
- The production and use of polyester, nylon, rayon, and cotton (materials found in clothing) all have negative impacts on the environment, so the less clothes that are made, the lesser the impact on the environment.



Any textile can be recycled regardless of its condition. For a detailed list visit <http://www.smartasn.org/>. You can donate used textiles to a local charity or find out if you have a textile recycling program in your area.

**SMART (Secondary Materials And Recycled Textiles Association)** is an international trade association since 1932 that has been at the forefront of recycling. *“SMART members use and convert recycled and secondary materials from used clothing, commercial laundries and nonwoven, off spec material, new mill ends and paper from around the world. SMART member companies create thousands of jobs worldwide.”* SMART is composed of companies from the United States, Canada, Mexico, South and Central America, Europe, Asia, and Pacific Rim countries.



The Goodwill has been providing bins for clothing donations since the early 1940s. You may be surprised to find out that when clothing is donated to the Goodwill or Salvation Army, that there is only a 15% chance that the clothing that you donate will be worn by someone else in your community. These facilities receive an excess amount of donations that make it impossible to sell them all. As a result, they sell their excess to for-profit companies like Viltex, who then recycle the leftover clothing for other uses. According to Jackie King, executive director of the Secondhand Materials and Recycled Textiles Association (SMART), *“What we need to do is change the dialogue to, ‘You’re not just donating, you’re reusing and recycling.’”* I think that is a great point. Regardless of where it is going, it is being re-used in some way that prevents more pollution and consumption of our natural resources.

Clothing drop boxes can be seen throughout the community, normally in shopping center parking lots. This makes it easier for people to shop and recycle at the same time. Better World Recycling is one green company that provides recycling bins in the CSRA. They also offer a free service to pick up your unwanted clothing, shoes, toys, and books at your home or business. Visit their website for more information at [www.betterworldrecycling.org/](http://www.betterworldrecycling.org/).





Sept. 2014

# Look Before You Leap.....Keeping it Cool

The news is full of reports of heat related deaths about small children who were left in cars and obviously unable to get out on their own, and reports of elderly persons dying at their residence where there is no air condition or other means of cooling their homes. These deaths are tragic and certainly preventable.

Extreme heat is deadly; it kills by forcing the human body beyond its ability to cool itself which slows the process by which the normal body temperature is maintained. The people who are at the greatest risk for experiencing the effects of extreme heat are: the very young, the elderly and people with chronic diseases and/or mental illness.

**Note:** The average temperatures for Central Georgia in the month of September: **High**-87 degrees; **Low**-63 degrees

## Environmental Factors:

People living in urban areas are at risk because of the poor air quality and often-stagnant atmospheric conditions, which trap pollutants in the air. These pollutants can trigger a wide range of respiratory problems. Asphalt and concrete also store heat longer and gradually release heat at night, leading to higher evening temperatures. Known as the urban "heat island" effect, this can prevent or reduce nighttime relief from extreme heat in a large city.

In regions of high humidity, like the southeastern U.S., excessive heat can make going outdoors nearly unbearable. High humidity also can interfere with the body's ability to sweat, which helps it cool down. When the heat outside exceeds the level the body can remove through sweating and evaporation, body temperatures rises and heat-related illness may develop.

## TIPS:

**NEVER LEAVE A CHILD, ELDERLY ADULT OR PET UNATTENDED IN AN EXTREME HEAT ENVIRONMENT.**

1. Wear loose-fitting clothing, preferably of a light color.
2. Cotton clothing will keep you cooler than many synthetics.
3. Fans can help circulate air and make you feel cooler even in an air-conditioned house.
4. Try storing lotions or cosmetic toners in the refrigerator to use on hot overtired feet.
5. Keep plastic bottles of water in the freezer; grab one when you're ready to go outside. As the ice melts, you'll have a supply of cold water with you.
6. Avoid caffeine and alcohol as these will promote dehydration.
7. Use common sense. Stay indoors when you can and avoid activities in direct sunlight or hot asphalt surfaces.

## Sources:

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[http://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2014/07/where-does-discarded-clothing-go/374613/?\\_ga=1.87160280.111369615.1405951308](http://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2014/07/where-does-discarded-clothing-go/374613/?_ga=1.87160280.111369615.1405951308)

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[http://water.epa.gov/learn/kids/drinkingwater/watertreatmentplant\\_index.cfm](http://water.epa.gov/learn/kids/drinkingwater/watertreatmentplant_index.cfm)

<http://www.betterworldrecycling.org/>